AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-5. (Cancelled)

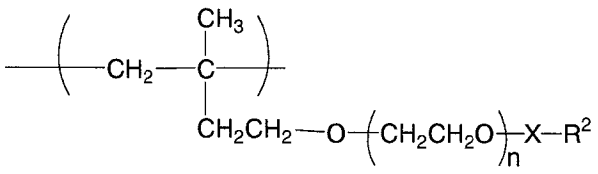
6. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper, which comprises 0.01-2 parts by mass a thickener for water-based vibration damper containing an emulsion having a polymer comprising 20-69 mol% an alkali-soluble monomer unit and 0.001-2.0 mol% an associating monomer unit, 10-60 parts by mass an water-based copolymer latex, and 40-90 parts by mass an inorganic filler per 100 parts by mass the solid portion of the composition, wherein the solid portion is in the range of 60-85% by mass of the composition.

7. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 6, wherein the associating monomer unit possesses in a side chain thereof a group represented by the following formula (I):

$$-(R^1\text{-}O)_n\text{-}X\text{-}R^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 denotes at least one group selected from the group consisting of methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, and butylene group, n denotes a number in the range of 10-300, X denotes a direct bond, -C(=O)-, or -C(=O)NH-, and R^2 denotes a hydrocarbon group of 6-30 carbon atoms.

8. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 7, wherein the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein n, X, and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above.

9. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claims 6, wherein the polymer further comprises a monomer unit which originates in an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and is copolymerized with the alkali-soluble monomer unit and the associating monomer unit.

10. (Original) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 9, wherein the proportion of the alkali-soluble monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 20-69 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, the proportion of the associating monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 0.001-2.0 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, and the proportion of the monomer unit originating in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 30-79% based on the total amount of all the monomer units.

11. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 7, wherein the alkali-soluble monomer unit is a monomer unit having an acidic functional group or both a monomer unit having an acidic functional group and a monomer unit having a salt thereof.

12. (Previously presented) A coating layer for vibration damper prepared from the composition of claim 6, wherein the layer has 1.5-4.5 mm of thickness.

13. (Previously presented) A coating layer for vibration damper prepared from the composition of claim 7, wherein the layer has 1.5-4.5 mm of thickness.

14. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 6, wherein the average particle diameter of the emulsion is in the range of 10 nm – 1 μm.

15. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 6, wherein an amount of the thickener for water-based vibration damper is in the range of 0.05-1.5% by mass.

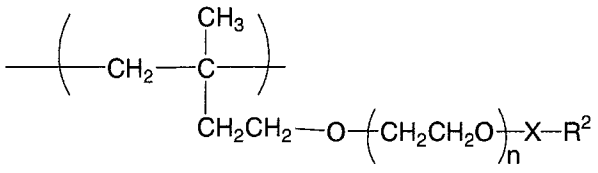
16. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper, which comprises 0.01-2 parts by mass a thickener for water-based vibration damper containing an emulsion having a polymer comprising 20-69 mol% an alkali-soluble monomer unit and 0.001-2.0 mol% an associating monomer unit and 10-60 parts by mass a water-based copolymer latex.

17. (Previously presented) A composition of vibration according to claim 16, wherein the associating monomer unit possesses in a side chain thereof a group represented by the following formula (I):

$$-(R^1\text{-}O)_n\text{-}X\text{-}R^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 denotes at least one group selected from the group consisting of methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, and butylene group, n denotes a number in the range of 10-300, X denotes a direct bond, -C(=O)-, or -C(=O)NH-, and R^2 denotes a hydrocarbon group of 6-30 carbon atoms.

18. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 17, wherein the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein n, X, and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above.

19. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 16, wherein the polymer further comprises a monomer unit which originates in an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and is copolymerized with the alkali-soluble monomer unit and the associating monomer unit.

20. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 19, wherein the proportion of the alkali-soluble monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 20-69 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, the proportion of the associating monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 0.001-2.0 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, and the proportion of the monomer unit originating in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 30-79% based on the total amount of all the monomer units.

21. (Previously presented) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 17, wherein the alkali-soluble monomer unit is a monomer unit having an acidic functional group or both a monomer unit having an acidic functional group and a monomer unit having a salt thereof.

22. (Previously presented) A coating layer for vibration damper prepared from the composition of claim 16, wherein the layer has 1.5-4.5 mm of thickness.

23. (Previously presented) A coating layer for vibration damper prepared from the composition of claim 17, wherein the layer has 1.5-4.5 mm of thickness.

24. (Previously presented) A method for increasing viscosity of a composition for vibration damper, which comprises incorporating 0.01-2 parts by mass of a thickener containing an emulsion having a polymer comprising 20-69 mol% of an

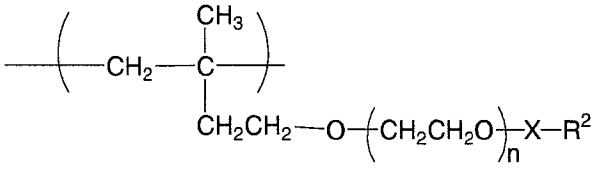
alkali-soluble monomer unit and 0.001-2.0 mol% of an associating monomer unit into a composition containing 10-60 parts by mass of a water-based copolymer latex.

25. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the associating monomer unit possesses in a side chain thereof a group represented by the following formula (I):

$$-(R^1\text{-}O)_n\text{-}X\text{-}R^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 denotes at least one group selected from the group consisting of methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, and butylene group, n denotes a number in the range of 10-300, X denotes a direct bond, -C(=O)-, or -C(=O)NH-, and R^2 denotes a hydrocarbon group of 6-30 carbon atoms.

26. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein n, X, and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above.

27. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, wherein the polymer further comprises a monomer unit which originates in an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and is coplymerized with the alkali-soluble monomer unit and the associating monomer unit.

28. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 27, wherein the proportion of the alkali-soluble monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 20-69 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, the proportion of the associating monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 0.001-2.0 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, and the proportion of the monomer unit

originating in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 30-79% based on the total amount of all the monomer units.

29. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 28, wherein the alkali-soluble monomer unit is a monomer unit having an acidic functional group or both a monomer unit having an acidic functional group and a monomer unit having a salt thereof.

30. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 24, further comprising adding to the composition 0.05-5.0 parts of a polyvalent metal compound based on 100 parts by mass of the solid components.

31. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 30, wherein said polyvalent metal is one member selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc chloride, zinc sulfate, and calcium carbonate.

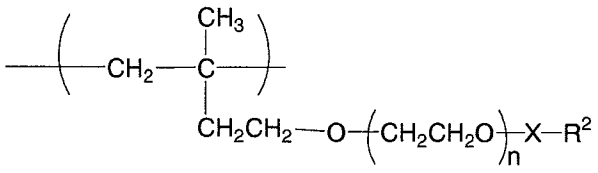
32. (Previously presented) A method for increasing viscosity of a composition for vibration damper, which comprises incorporating 0.01-2 parts by mass of a thickener containing an emulsion having a polymer comprising 20-69 mol% of an alkali-soluble monomer unit and 0.001-2.0 mol% of an associating monomer unit into a composition containing 10-60 parts by mass of a water-based copolymer latex and 40-90 parts by mass of an inorganic filler per 100 parts by mass of the solid portion of the composition, wherein the solid portion is in the range of 60-85 by mass of composition.

33. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the associating monomer unit possesses in a side chain thereof a group represented by the following formula (I):

$$-(R^1\text{-}O)_n\text{-}X\text{-}R^2 \qquad (I)$$

wherein R^1 denotes at least one group selected from the group consisting of methylene group, ethylene group, propylene group, and butylene group, n denotes a number in the range of 10-300, X denotes a direct bond, -C(=O)-, or -C(=O)NH-, and R^2 denotes a hydrocarbon group of 6-30 carbon atoms.

34. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 33, wherein the associating monomer unit is represented by the following formula (II):



(II)

wherein n, X, and R^2 have the same meanings as defined above.

35. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the polymer further comprises a monomer unit which originates in an ethylenically unsaturated monomer and is copolymerized with the alkali-soluble monomer unit and the associating monomer unit.

36. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 35, wherein the proportion of the alkali-soluble monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 20-69 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, the proportion of the associating monomer unit to be incorporated is in the range of 0.001-2.0 mol % based on the total amount of all the monomer units, and the proportion of the monomer unit originating in the ethylenically unsaturated monomer is in the range of 30-79% based on the total amount of all the monomer units.

37. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 36, wherein the alkali-soluble monomer unit is a monomer unit having an acidic functional group or both a monomer unit having an acidic functional group and a monomer unit having a salt thereof.

38. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, further comprising adding to the composition 0.05-5.0 parts of a polyvalent metal compound based on 100 parts by mass of the solid components.

39. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 38, wherein said polyvalent metal is one member selected from the group consisting of zinc oxide, zinc chloride, zinc sulfate, and calcium carbonate.

40. (Previously presented) A method according to claim 32, wherein the inorganic filler is 45-85 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the solid portion of the composition.

41. (New) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 6, wherein the polymer has a molecular weight of not less than 100,000.

42. (New) A composition for vibration damper according to claim 16, wherein the polymer has a molecular weight of not less than 100,000.

43. (New) A method according to claim 24, wherein the polymer has a molecular weight of not less than 100,000.

44. (New) A method according to claim 32, wherein the polymer has a molecular weight of not less than 100,000.